

Re: NAB Petition 04-160    It is my understanding that the National Association of Broadcasters has submitted a petition to the FCC requesting that satellite radio providers be barred from providing its paying listeners with local traffic and weather broadcasts. Please accept this letter as a statement of my opposition to their petition.

I am a subscriber to XM Satellite Radio. I have had XM Radio installed in both of my vehicles as well as my home and office. In fact, the only broadcasts that I am capable of receiving in my office (a 1960's era government building) with reasonable clarity are from XM.

My commuting routine includes daily listening to the XM traffic and weather reports. I find their accurate and frequent reporting to be an essential element in getting to work on time.

There are many reasons why I have chosen to pay for radio broadcasting. They include signal quality, format, and content. In fact, I now listen to XM Broadcasts to the virtual exclusion of local commercial radio. I do not think that it is either fair or appropriate for a lobbying group (the NAB) to determine what material I can or cannot listen to especially in light of the fact that I pay for the service.

Local broadcasters and the NAB should focus on improving their level of service instead of trying to quash competition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Very truly yours,  
Geoffrey J. Mascaro